

Seminole Radio Control Club

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Seminole Radio Control Club?

The Seminole Radio Control Club membership is dedicated to the hobby of flying model aircraft of various types whose flight is controlled by radios operated by the pilots. The Club is chartered by the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) (<http://modelaircraft.org>) and holds charter number 216. The Club was founded in 1969 and is currently designated as a Gold Leader Club, the highest designation offered. To achieve this we satisfy nineteen specific criteria related to safety, promotion of the hobby, fundraising, and recruitment. The Club maintains a web site (<http://seminolerc.com>) where one can find information as to our field location, membership, instructor program, events, and more. Club members agree to fly according to the AMA Safety Code which is designed to promote safe practices when flying RC models.

Q. What types of models are flown?

With the advent of lightweight computer driven radio systems almost any type of model aircraft can be flown: scale models of full sized aircraft, fanciful designs like a witch on a broomstick or Snoopy's Doghouse, helicopters, gliders, quadcopters, and more. The only real limitation is one's imagination.

Q. How are the models powered?

Our models can be powered by electric motors, alcohol (glow-fuel) two or four-cycle engines, gasoline two or four-cycle engines, or even jet turbine engines!

Q. How can I learn to fly?

The Club has a flight training program. Interested individuals can make an appointment with an instructor and take a lesson using an aircraft and radio supplied by the club. We use a "buddy box" system where two radios are connected so that the instructor can take over at any time in order to prevent a crash. This provides a gentle introduction to the learning process at no cost to the student and without the risk of damaging equipment in a crash. If this seems like an activity the student wants to continue, then we can suggest suitable radio systems and trainer aircraft to purchase. Instructors will continue the training using the student's equipment until the student has successfully soloed. Many Club members are available to help with the inevitable questions concerning maintenance, repair, and other aspects of the hobby.

Q. How much does it cost?

The initial investment for a basic radio system and a trainer aircraft is typically on the order of \$400. The radio system and support equipment can be used with more than one aircraft, so adding additional models can be relatively inexpensive. Of course, as one progresses in the hobby the desire for more sophisticated equipment can lead to higher costs.

Q. Why should I join the Club?

The best way to learn about RC models is from those who are experienced in the hobby. The Club offers a training program and members are happy to provide advice to those who are new to the hobby. As noted below, AMA membership provides liability insurance and the Club facilities offer a great site for flying in a safe

and responsible manner. The Club also holds fly-ins, auctions, fund-raising events, and other social activities.

Q. What are the membership costs?

The Club currently leases the field site from Leon County. Membership in the Club is required (\$100 per year for adult membership) as Club dues fund field maintenance and other Club activities. Membership in the Academy of Model Aeronautics is also required (\$75 per year for adult membership) as this membership includes liability insurance in the rare event of an accident that results in property damage or injury. The Club also pays for this policy to cover Leon County.

Q. How hard are they to build?

Although some Club members do build their models from kits or from plans, most members prefer to fly what are termed Almost Ready to Fly (ARF) models. These may be made of combinations of balsa wood, plywood, and/or styrofoam and are available in a wide range of sizes and types including scale models, sport models, and more. The individual components of ARFs (wings, fuselage, etc) are already constructed and simply require assembling the components and installing the equipment. Some even come with the radio equipment and motor preinstalled. Assembly time varies from 2-20 hours depending on the type of ARF.

Q. Where can I buy one?

Most purchases of new equipment these days are done via the internet as we do not have a full service hobby shop in town. Club members provide a useful resource for used equipment or suggestions for other sources of the models they fly.

Q. Once I have learned to fly a trainer, what comes next?

That is up to you and the sky is quite literally the limit! Some members prefer to fly models that are scale replicas of full-sized aircraft (scale) while others prefer to just enjoy the art of take-offs and landings and watching their models fly basic airborne maneuvers (sport flying.) Others enjoy the challenge of competitive flying including precision aerobatics (pattern - see <http://nsrca.org> or <http://seniorpattern.com>), precision maneuvers for helicopters (<http://IRCHA.org>), and scale models of full-sized aerobatic aircraft (IMAC - <http://mini-iac.org>)